

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06498 211854Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 SY-05 NEAE-00 OC-06

/037 W

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O 211842Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1270

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, AEMR, SY

SUBJECT: DAO STATION WAGON AND RADIOS SEIZED BY LAA

REF: (A) BEIRUT 6493, (B) DAMASCUS 4794

1. IN FURTHER ATTEMPT TO SECURE RELEASE OF STATION WAGON, DRIVERS AND RADIO EQUIPMENT, EMBASSY BEIRUT SENT ELIAS SEMAAN OF BEIRUT EXPRESS TO SIDON THIS AFTERNOON WITH A CERTIFICATION (ADDRESSED TO MAJOR AHMET BOUTARY, COMMANDER LEBANESE ARMY IN SOUTHERN REGION) THAT RADIOS AND BATTERIES INTENDED FOR SOLE OFFICIAL USE OF EMBASSY. DOCUMENT ALSO REQUESTED RELEASE OF RADIO GEAR, VEHICLES AND DRIVERS.
2. AT 2100 HOURS MR. SEMAAN RETURNED BEIRUT AND REPORTED TO EMBASSY THAT HE HAD MET WITH AN LAA MAJOR (NOT BOUTARY) AT EIN EL HILWI CAMP NEAR SIDON AND HAD DELIVERED CERTIFICATION.
3. SEMAAN REPORTED THE MAJOR TO BE UNCOOPERATIVE STATING THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE CERTIFICATION TO BE GENUINE, THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY BEIRUT HAD EVACUATED ITS STAFF WITH EXCEPTION OF MSG'S AND CONSEQUENTLY HAD NO NEED OF RADIOS. LAA MAJOR FURTHER STATED THAT HE BELIEVES ONE OF DRIVERS DETAINED (HABRA-A MARONITE CHRISTIAN) TO BE PHALLANGIST AGENT SMUGGLING ILL-GOTTEN RADIOS TO CHRISTIAN FORCES.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06498 211854Z

4. MAJOR INSISTED HE WOULD NOT RELEASE DRIVERS OR RADIOS

WITHOUT DIRECT ORDER FROM A SUPERIOR OFFICER, PRESUMABLY  
BOUTARY, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS HE CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW.

5. THIS POINT SEMAAN WAS ASKED TO LEAVE.

6. FYI - SEMAAN SAW BUT DID NOT SPEAK WITH TWO DRIVERS.  
HE SAID THEY WEARED BRUISED BUT NOT BADLY BEATEN.

7. SEMAAN AGAIN ATTEMPTING, THROUGH BEIRUT EXPRESS FATAH  
CONTACTS, TO SECURE RELEASE OF DRIVERS AND RADIO GEAR.

8. WILL ADVISE DEVELOPMENTS.  
SEELYE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BEIRUT 6493, 76 DAMASCUS 4794  
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**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2004  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**To:** DAMASCUS  
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